

Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee

Report

3rd Meeting of the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee
February 21, 2019
Committee Rooms #1 and #2

Attendance PRESENT: S. Levin (Chair), E. Arellano, A. Boyer, R. Doyle, A. Duarte, C. Dyck, P. Ferguson, S. Hall, B. Krichker, S. Sivakumar, R. Trudeau and I. Whiteside and H. Lysynski (Secretary)

ABSENT: K. Moser and I. Mohamed

ALSO PRESENT: J. MacKay, S. Mathers, L. Pompilli, M. Snowsell, R. Wilcox and P. Yeoman

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM

1. Call to Order

1.1 Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

That it BE NOTED that no pecuniary interests were disclosed.

2. Scheduled Items

2.1 City of London Strategic Plan Engagement

That it BE NOTED that the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee heard the attached presentation from R. Wilcox, Director, Community and Economic Innovation, with respect to the City of London Strategic Plan 2019-2023.

3. Consent

3.1 2nd Report of the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee

That it BE NOTED that the 2nd Report of the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee, from its meeting held on January 17, 2019, was received.

3.2 1st Report of the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee

That it BE NOTED that the 1st Report of the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee, from its meeting held on January 23, 2019, was received.

3.3 2nd Report of the Advisory Committee on the Environment

That it BE NOTED that the 2nd Report of the Advisory Committee on the Environment, from its meeting held on February 6, 2019, was received.

3.4 Municipal Council Resolution - 2835 Sheffield Place

That it BE NOTED that the Municipal Council resolution adopted at its meeting held on January 15, 2019, with respect to 2835 Sheffield Place, was received.

3.5 Small Patches Make Critical Contributions to Biodiversity Conservation

That it BE NOTED that the communication dated January 17, 2019, from S. Sivakumar, with respect to small patches making critical contributions to biodiversity conservation, was received.

4. Sub-Committees and Working Groups

4.1 Clarke Road Environmental Assessment Working Group Comments

That consideration of the Clarke Road Environmental Assessment Working Group comments BE POSTPONED to the next meeting of the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee.

4.2 Environmentally Significant Areas and Your Dog Pamphlet

That the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee (EEPAC) BE REQUESTED to provide comments to P. Ferguson prior to the next EEPAC meeting with respect to the proposed "You, Your Dog and Environmentally Significant Areas (ESAs)" brochure.

4.3 One River Environmental Assessment - Response to EEPAC Comments

That the Civic Administration BE ADVISED that the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee (EEPAC) agrees, in principle, only with the Springbank Dam Environmental Assessment for the preferred solution of the partial decommissioning of the Springbank Dam pending the EEPAC review of the completed Environmental Impact Study and accompanying documentation including the hydrogeological assessment contained in the River Characterization Study and the Natural Heritage Setting Study; it being noted that the EEPAC has reviewed the draft Environmental Impact Statement and has met with Civic Administration to discuss this matter.

4.4 Thames Valley Parkway North Branch Connection

That the attached, revised, Working Group comments relating to the Thames Valley Parkway North Branch Connection BE FORWARDED to the Civic Administration for consideration.

5. Items for Discussion

5.1 Notice of Planning Application - Zoning By-law - Amendment - 6682 Fisher Lane

That it BE NOTED that the Notice of Planning Application for the property located at 6682 Fisher Lane, from M. Sundercock, Planner I, was received.

5.2 Notice of Planning Application - Zoning By-law Amendment - 348 Sunningdale Road East

That a Working Group BE ESTABLISHED consisting of R. Doyle, A. Duarte and I. Whiteside, to review the Notice of Planning Application relating to the property located at 348 Sunningdale Road East, from B. Debbert, Senior Planner and to report back at the next Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee meeting.

5.3 Meadowlily Woods ESA Conservation Plan - Phase 1

That a Working Group BE ESTABLISHED consisting of C. Dyck, S. Hall and S. Levin, to review the Meadowlily Woods Environmentally Significant Area Conservation Master Plan, Phase 1 and to report back at the next Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee meeting.

5.4 Endangered Species Act

That it BE NOTED that the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee held a general discussion with respect to the Province's 10th Year Review of Ontario's *Endangered Species Act*: Discussion Paper and Members were asked to provide comments individually.

5.5 2019 Work Plan

That consideration of the 2019 Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee (EEPAC) Work Plan BE POSTPONED to the next EEPAC meeting.

5.6 April 11, 2019 Meeting Date

That it BE NOTED that the April Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee meeting will be held on April 11, 2019 instead of April 18, 2019.

5.7 Municipal Council Resolution - Bird Friendly Development

That it BE NOTED that the Municipal Council resolution adopted at its meeting held on January 29, 2019, with respect to the Bird Friendly Development, was received.

5.8 905 Sarnia Road Wetland Relocation Project

That it BE NOTED that the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee held a general discussion with respect to the relocation of the wetland at 905 Sarina Road.

6. Deferred Matters/Additional Business

6.1 (ADDED) Meadowlily Woods Environmentally Significant Area Conservation Master Plan – Phase 1

That it BE NOTED that the Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee heard the attached presentation from K. Richter and D. Riley, NRSI, with respect to the Meadowlily Woods Environmentally Significant Area Conservation Master Plan, Phase 1.

6.2 (ADDED) Notice of Study Completion - Broughdale Dyke - Municipal Class Environmental Assessment

That it BE NOTED that the Notice of Study Completion for the Broughdale Dyke, Municipal Class Environmental Assessment, from P. Adams, Environmental Planner, AECOM, was received.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 PM.



City of London Strategic Plan 2019-2023



Environmental and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee
February 21, 2019

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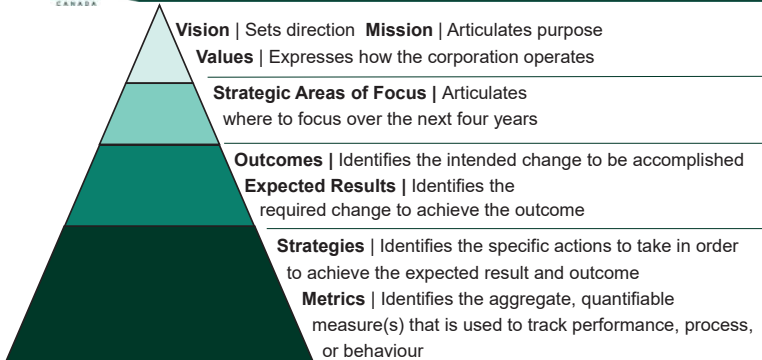
What is the Strategic Plan?

- Council's Strategic Plan...
 - Identifies a **shared vision, mission, and strategic areas of focus** in order to guide the work of Council and Administration over the Council term.
 - Is a **directional document** which guides the work of the Corporation of the City of London, including Council, Administration, and the City's agencies, boards and commissions over the next four years.
 - Is **deliberately connected** with the 2020-2023 Multi-Year Budget
 - Is focused specifically on **strategic directions** that will be implemented in the next four years

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Strategic Plan Approach



Strategic Plan Components

Vision, Mission, and Values

- The **Vision** sets the direction for the organization
- **Mission** articulates purpose
- **Values** express how the corporation operates

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Strategic Plan Components

Outcomes and Expected Results

- **Outcomes** identify what we want to accomplish
- **Expected Results** identify the change required to achieve the outcome

The Outcomes and Expected Results should reflect the outcomes we want to accomplish for the community in the next four years.

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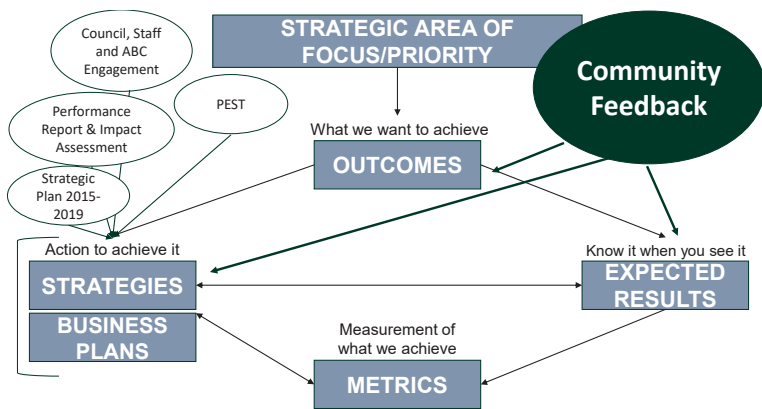


Strategic Plan Components

Strategies

- **Strategies** are the specific actions that will be taken in order to achieve the outcomes and expected results
- These are the actions we will take in order to move our city forward over the next four years

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How Community Feedback will be Used

- Throughout the month of February, feedback will be collected from residents both online and in person at various events across the city, including this one!
- All feedback will be compiled and shared with Council at the **March 4th Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee meeting** to help Council set the Vision, Mission, and Values, as well as the Outcomes, Expected Results, and Strategies, in order to develop and finalize the 2019-2023 Strategic Plan

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Share Your Feedback



We want to know what is important to you. Ways to share your feedback include:

- <http://getinvolved.London.ca/StratPlan>
- Paper surveys (please return to City Hall Lobby front counter c/o Rosanna Wilcox)

Deadline for feedback is February 28, 2019

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Thank you!

Thames Valley Parkway North Extension

Comments following attendance at preconstruction Open House held January 31, 2019

Submitted to February EEPAC meeting by Prof. K. Mosher and S. Levin

This area is part of the Thames River Valley corridor and is home to many species at risk (SAR) and the increasingly rare habitats which they depend on to survive. Woodlands adjacent to the river form a narrow corridor within the city of London that provides critical habitat to many migratory birds and SAR. It also offers protection for the Thames River from urban development and inputs of sediments, nutrients and contaminants. Therefore, given that the City has made the decision to construct two new bridges to cross the Thames in this ecologically important area, the City has the responsibility to take all possible precautions to protect this environment and species at risk. Given the sensitivity of the site and its importance to SAR, we believe that the city must well beyond normal measures to ensure minimal impact on the environment, and that SAR and their habitat will be protected. A detailed and thorough monitoring plan accurately documents any impacts that occur during or after construction, and provides targets for conservation and mitigation. Here we provide comments and recommendations to help ensure full protection of SAR and their habitats during and after construction.

Monitoring:*Pertinent Note from ESR*

A screening for potential SAR in the construction area will be completed prior to construction and mitigation measures, such as exclusionary fencing will be installed. Additional mitigation measures will be developed during detailed design, in consultation with UTRCA and MNRF, based on the final design. A monitoring plan will also be developed, with input from UTRCA. (p. 56)

Concern: There was no information about planned post construction monitoring available at the meeting. EEPAC members were told that it is still a work in progress.

Effective monitoring allows for actions to be taken to minimize deleterious impacts of construction and avoid costly errors.

Monitoring must be done pre-, during and post- construction. Baseline conditions, including water quality, should be accurately determined in order to determine post construction targets. We assume that during-construction monitoring will be done by Dillon, but the pre-and post-construction monitoring will be the responsibility of the City. How will this be co-ordinated to ensure that monitoring effectively shows the impacts of the project? Detailed post construction monitoring plans are still being determined, but that no water quality monitoring is planned.

Given that the detailed design phase is nearly complete and construction is set to start June 2019, EEPAC is concerned that monitoring plans, particularly post construction plans, are not yet available for review. This is an opportunity for the City to show strong environmental leadership by developing a well-planned and effective monitoring strategy.

Recommendation 1: EEPAC receives the monitoring plans for review when they are complete.

Given the sensitivity of the site, we are particularly concerned about what measures will be taken beyond the “normal” ones to ensure the protection of sensitive SARs and their habitat. What will be included in the pre- and post-construction monitoring? How long will post-monitoring be done? We urge the City to re-consider including water quality monitoring in the plans. Although construction plans indicate several measures, including silt reducing fencing and de-watering pools, there is still the potential for increased turbidity and nutrients downstream as a result of increased erosion. We presume the erosion control measures will be put in place before the first tree is removed to minimize sediment and nutrient loads to the Thames resulting from vegetation clearing and bridge construction. The loss of a buffer zone during the bridge construction could increase sediment and nutrient loading.

Recommendation 2: In order to accurately determine any water quality changes related to the bridge construction, pre and post construction water sampling must be done upstream and downstream of the bridge and include other potential inputs located just downstream of the construction site. For each sample, we would recommend basic chemistry and BioMAP benthic water quality index.

Recommendation 3: More robust erosion sediment control measures be implemented as this is a sensitive site. This must be implemented when large storms or freeze / thaw events are forecasted.

Recommendation 4: We also strongly recommend including pre-construction checks for hibernacula in the warm spring when snakes emerge and not just before actual construction. This would also apply to any of the SCC or SAR plants that are spring ephemerals.

Preventive Measures:

Concern: Owing to the sensitivity of this site, preventive measures should be substantial to protect SARs and their habitat. Such measures should prepare for and prevent any possible damage to the ecosystem. EEPAC requires reassurances that everything possible is being done to prevent loss of species habitat or endangering SAR.

One of the most serious risks to the SAR turtles are dogs. This area is notorious for dogs off leash; in fact many people already treat it as a dog park.

Recommendation 5: EEPAC strongly recommends that the City make plans ahead of and after construction to curb dogs off leash in this area.

EEPAC recommends a strict enforcement of dogs on leash in this area prior to construction and immediately after construction. Sending enforcement officers in weekly in the early morning and evenings to caution and/or fine dog owners would be one strategy. Such a strategy seems to have been quite effective in Komoka Provincial Park. Large clear signage including the amount of the fines and the reason to keep dogs on leash (protection of species at risk) are also recommended.

Screening on bridges should be used to reduce the ability of people standing on the bridge from seeing the spiny softshell turtle nesting site to the north. Dillon argues that the Ross Park bridge is 300 m away and that people walking along Richmond by the car bridge have an even better view. This may be true, in which case screening is also needed at Richmond as well as on this new bridge. Regardless of decisions about the Richmond bridge, the Ross Park Bridge include screening because these bridges are being built for walkers and bikes, not cars, and people are much more likely to stop and observe nature on this type of bridge than pedestrians traversing the Richmond bridge. Given the total costs of the bridges, the screening is a small measure that the City should take to protect SAR.

Recommendation 6: EEPAC seeks clarification on the timing of construction and the rationale for not having screening on the bridges, in particular, the Ross Park bridge.

The panels at the public meeting held Jan. 31, 2019 indicated construction will start in June 2019, however, it was stated previously that construction would only begin after the migratory season and would be done in the Fall. It is important that birds and species risk be left alone during spring and summer months. Construction and site access should be strictly limited until Fall as was previously planned.

Recommendation 7: Appropriate Clean Equipment Protocols be included in the final contract documents to prevent the spread of invasive species. Failing to do so will increase invasive species harming native ones.

Recommendation 8: EEPAC recommends that all contractors receive species at risk training prior to access to the construction site so that they know the protocols to use when a SAR is encountered on the site. As well, photos of species at risk be displayed in an construction staging areas such as trailers.

There is recent beaver activity in the construction area.

Recommendation 9: There should be training for site workers and city staff about the City protocols concerning beavers. EEPAC understands that the stormwater management group has a standard beaver protocol in place for contractors removing sediments from SWM ponds.

Turtles have been observed in the area of construction in the past, so there is the possibility of turtles being encountered during construction.

***Recommendation 10:* EEPAC recommends daily site inspections by an ecologist and that a SAR specialist (perhaps from the UTRCA) will be on-site during construction as required.**

As well, we assume that there will be adequate post-construction monitoring of SARs. Such monitoring would provide much needed knowledge about the impacts of bridge construction on water quality and how to best protect SARs and their habitat. Failing to protect SARs would not only be a major loss for the ecosystems London harbours, but also for the City who has a responsibility to protect species at risk and their habitats. Monitoring will help protect SARs because having accurate data about their numbers before and during bridge construction would mean that if there were a decrease in population or habitat, measures could be taken before the problem worsened.

***Recommendation 11:* Annually, all parks operation staff, including summer and casual staff, be provided information and training on the identification of species at risk in the Natural Heritage System and be given a wallet card or similar in order to direct them to call selected staff when species are sighted.**

This should be city wide, not just this part of the Natural Heritage System.

We are also concerned about post-construction monitoring for invasive species. How will this be done and over what period? Any increase in invasive species requires an immediate action plan to prevent it worsening.

***Recommendation 12:* Annually, all parks operation staff, including summer and casual staff, be provided information and training on the identification of the invasives species that have priority for early detection and response and be given a wallet card or similar in order to direct them to call selected staff when species are located.**

***Recommendation 13:* The City must monitor the area post construction to see if off path trails are starting and to stamp them out quickly, as city staff at the meeting said that the parks operations staff will be the only ones there regularly from the city – (also see section 10.2 p 40 of the ESR).**

It continues to be unclear what maintenance will be done on the bridge and trails during winter, and what the city policy will be for using these trails for equipment. It is well known that salt can have detrimental effects on water quality which in turn affects fish, mussels and turtles.

***Recommendation 14:* EEPAC recommends that the City commit to not use de-icing chemicals (including salt) on the bridges and pathways.**

Although there are other “pathways” for salt to enter the Thames, salt use on the TVP path and bridges would add to the total salt input to the Thames and increases danger to nearby species at risk and their habitat.

As well, EEPAC is looking for a commitment that the City ensure contractors operating equipment in sensitive city areas be appropriately trained about SAR and safe driving with particular regard to risks of encountering species. On Feb. 11 2019 just before 8:00 am a EEPAC member observed a large sidewalk snow removal vehicle (included a front plow and salt spreader at the rear) driving at high speed on the bike pathway east of Adelaide (approximate location 43.024458°, -81.239797°) heading north and east towards Highbury. The vehicle was neither plowing nor spreading salt and it was clear by tracks in the snow that it had accessed the path at Adelaide. The member's best guess is that the driver was using the pathway as a short cut – this is not an appropriate use. Clearly, the City needs to improve training for these workers or end this practice of using park infrastructure as a shortcut. (This incident was reported to the City and D. Clarke from Parks Operations responded).

Mitigation Measures

Concern: To build the bridge and extend the pathway many trees have to be removed. EEPAC appreciates the pathway alignment has tried to minimize the loss of trees and to avoid larger trees as much as possible. Still, we are given to understand that 150 trees 30-50 dbh will be removed. The total count by size was not available at open house.

Recommendation 15: EEPAC requests further information about tree replacements.

Replacement is 3:1 for 30-50 dbh, 5:1 for larger trees. We assume it is 1:1 for trees less than 30 dbh. Is that correct? Have locations for plantings been determined? When will plantings take place? Where will plantings be done? In the areas cleared? We understand only native plants will be planted. What types of trees will be used? How long will the trees be cared for after planting? Are tree plantings part of the compensation/enhancement plan? If so, is it available for anyone to see? We would like to see the plans because the loss of trees and re-planting of trees and possible revegetation of the "meadow" area north of the pathway is an environmental concern and we would like to provide our recommendations about these plans. We also understand that some planting will commence prior to completion.

Recommendation 16: A minimum five year warranty period for ecological restoration and plantings be required in the tender documents. The warranty period should only begin once 70% or more of the plantings are completed.

Recommendation 17: EEPAC recommends that invasive species control along the Thames and in Huron Woods be a part of the compensatory plan.

Recommendation 18: Professor Emeritus Brock Fenton from Western University be consulted on the proposed installation of bat boxes.

Other:

Concern: There appears to be no mention regarding the marked trail that runs adjacent to the river. The trail is well marked with white paint and we believe it is part of the Thames Valley Trail. This trail takes people from Adelaide west and up the hill behind the seminary and over to Ross Park. By crossing the Thames at Adelaide you can continue on the trail on the north side of the Thames east through Killaly Woods ESA to Highbury and beyond.

***Recommendation 19:* Prior to construction a plan for this trail should be decided and be part of the detailed design. If the trail is to continue it should be re-routed and made part of the TVP where there is overlap.**

EEPAC was pleased to learn that no in water work will be required as part of this project.

EEPAC continues to believe that the Thames Valley Parkway North Extension is in a part of the Natural Heritage System that meets at least two of the seven criteria as an Environmentally Significant Area (ESA). It should be noted that to date it has not been evaluated against the criteria in the City's Official Plan.

Meadowlily Woods ESA

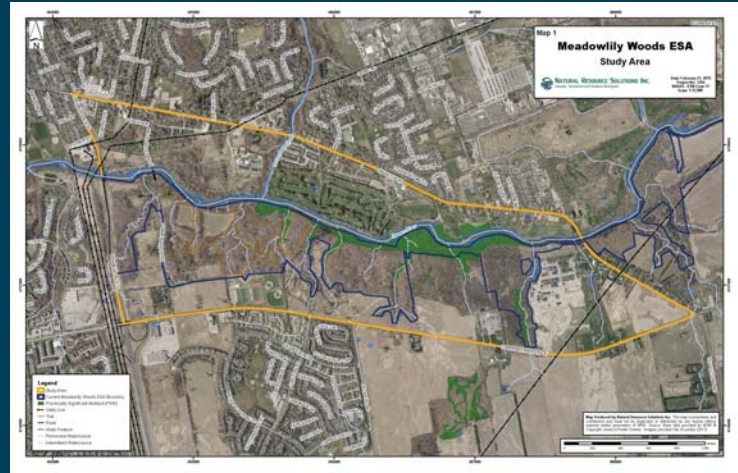
Conservation Master Plan – Phase 1



NATURAL RESOURCE SOLUTIONS INC.
Aquatic, Terrestrial and Wetland Biologists

Presented by: Katharina Richter and Daniel Riley

415 Phillip Street, Unit C, Waterloo, ON N2L 3K2 Tel: (519) 725-2227 Web: www.nrsi.on.ca Email: info@nrsi.on.ca



The Study Area

NATURAL RESOURCE SOLUTIONS INC.

The Meadowlily Woods Environmentally Significant Area

- Natural area in the City of London
- Important habitat for flora and fauna
- Archeology
- City-owned and private properties
- 60 hectares
- Public Trails



NATURAL RESOURCE SOLUTIONS INC.

NRSI's Role

To conduct an ecological inventory of Meadowlily Woods and prepare a Phase 1 Conservation Master Plan for the Meadowlily Woods Environmentally Significant Area.

Comprehensive Inventory:

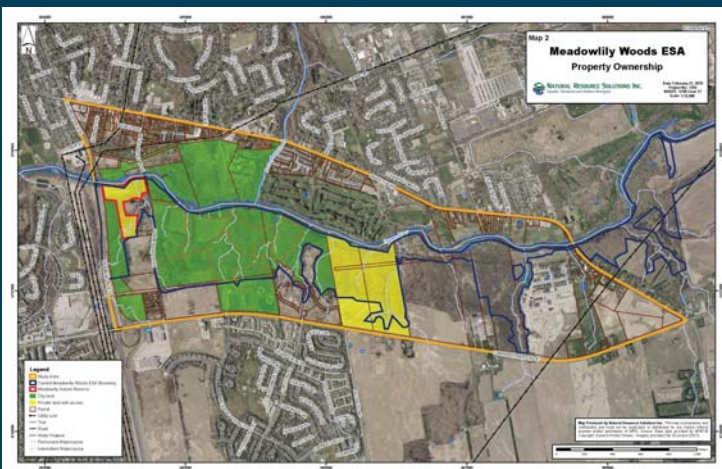
- Background review
- Field visits by NRSI biologists

The Conservation Master Plan:

- Analysis
- Boundary delineation
- Management Zones
- Restoration Areas
- Consultation with City of London

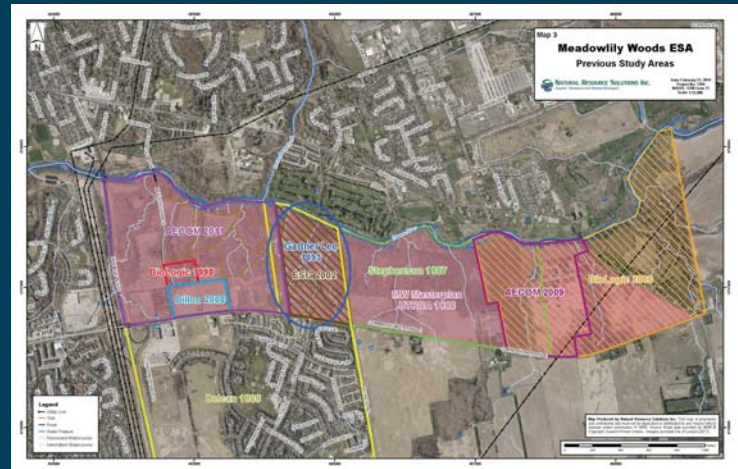


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Property Ownership

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Previous Study Areas

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NRSI Field Studies

- Vegetation Surveys
- Bird Surveys
- Anuran Surveys
- Snake Surveys
- Turtle Surveys
- Mammal Surveys
- Butterfly Surveys
- Odonate Surveys
- Aquatic Surveys



Survey Locations

Field Study Results – Vascular Plants

- 435 plant species
- Ecological Land Classification
 - 26 vegetation communities
- 3 Species at Risk plants observed
 - Butternut
 - Kentucky Coffee Tree
 - Wood Poppy
- 1 Provincially Rare Species
- 5 Regionally Rare Species
- Invasive species
 - Common Buckthorn
 - Japanese Knotweed



Ecological Land Classification

Field Study Results - Birds

- 178 species identified in background review
- 81 species identified by NRSI
- 3 Species at Risk
 - Barn Swallow
 - Chimney Swift
 - Eastern Meadowlark
- 2 Species of Conservation Concern
 - Wood Thrush
 - Eastern Wood-Pewee
- 4 Woodland-Area Sensitive Species



Field Study Results- Herpetofauna and Mammals

Herpetofauna

- 19 species identified in background review
- 9 species observed by NRSI biologists
- 1 Species of Conservation Concern
 - Snapping Turtle

Mammals

- 24 species identified during background review
- 9 species or evidence of their presence observed by NRSI
- Bat SAR assumed to be present



Species at Risk at Meadowlily Woods

6 Species at Risk observed by NRSI biologists

Butternut

- Found throughout the subject site
- Butternut Canker
- No Butternut Health Assessment completed

Kentucky Coffee Tree

- Near Meadowlily Road South and the Thames River
- Likely planted specimens

Wood Poppy

- Small population found in the study area
- First identified by Stephenson in 1987



Species at Risk at Meadowlily Woods

Barn Swallow

- Observed over the subject site
- No nesting activities observed

Chimney Swift

- Observed foraging over the Thames River
- Nesting habitat is chimneys and large hollow trees
- No nesting activities observed

Eastern Meadowlark

- One individual observed
- Small habitat size
- Unlikely to be breeding in study area

Endangered Bat Species

- Assumed to be present

13 additional SAR may be found in or adjacent to the Meadowlily Woods study area



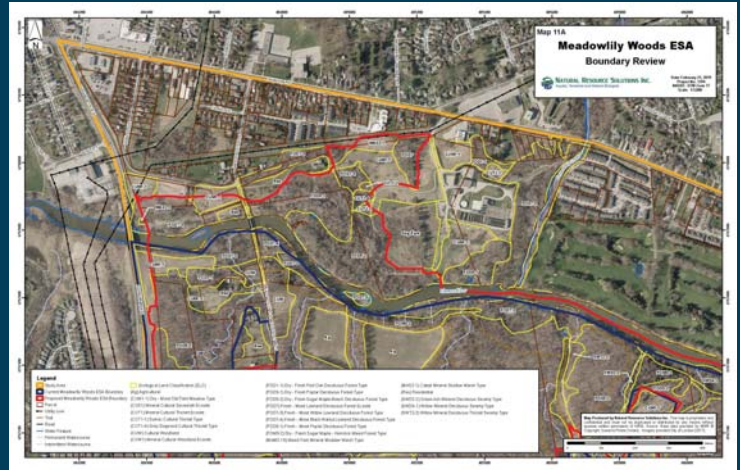
Boundary Review

Objective

To refine the boundary of the Meadowlily Woods Environmentally Significant Area based on background information, field survey data and analysis using the City of London's *Guideline Documents for Environmentally Significant Areas, Identification, Evaluation and Boundary Delineation (1997)* and *Guidelines for Assessing Ecological Boundaries of Vegetation Patches*.

Process

- All lands in the study area considered for inclusion
- Qualifying as an Environmentally Significant Area
- Boundary refinement



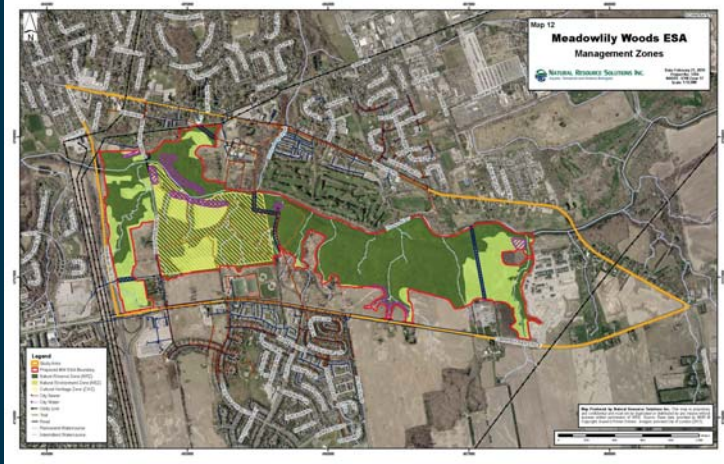
ESA Boundary Review



ESA Boundary Review



ESA Boundary Review



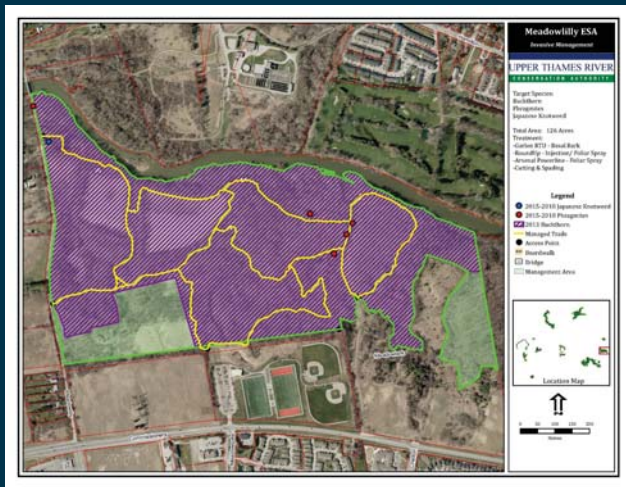
Management Zones

Restoration

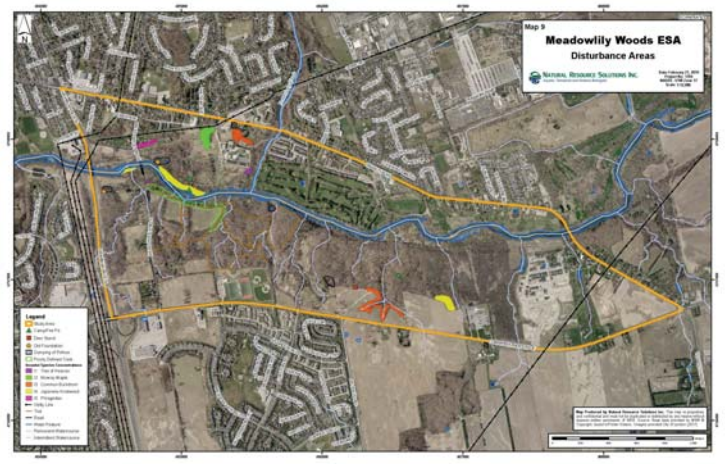
Ecological restoration of natural areas which have been degraded through human disturbance and invasive species establishment is critical to improving the overall health, ecological form and ecological function of Environmental Significant Areas in London and across Ontario.

Restoration in City of London

- A leader among Ontario municipalities
- Invasive species management
- *London Invasive Plant Management Strategy (2017)*
- Hierarchical approach to invasive management
- Priority invasive plant species



Invasive Management



Disturbance Areas

Restoration – Recommended Activities

Waste Removal

- Dumping of household trash
- Removal and clean-up of these areas
- No dumping signs and vegetation plantings

Invasive Species Management

- Invasive species at Meadowlily Woods
- Compete with native plants
- Best Management Practices



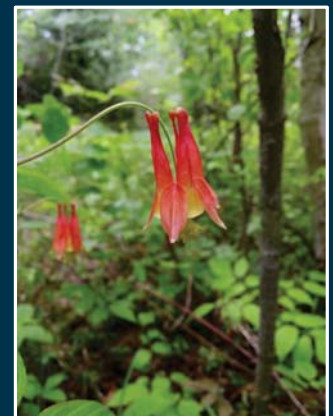
Restoration – Recommended Activities

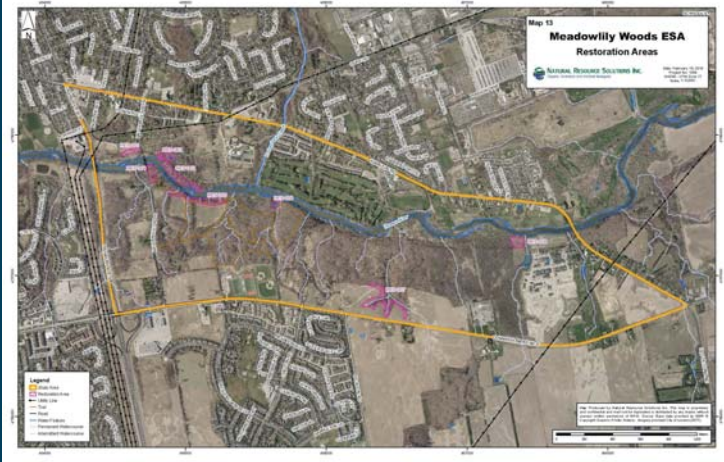
Vegetation Plantings

- Provide wildlife habitat
- Limit erosion
- Prevent invasive species establishment
- Restrict pedestrian access

Monitoring

- Ensure success of restoration
- Annual monitoring





Restoration Areas

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